

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE	BETTER WORK VIETNAM — UNION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
REGION/COUNTRY	EAST ASIA & PACIFIC/Vietnam
PROJECT DURATION	December 31, 2010 – December 30, 2013
FUNDING LEVEL	USD 640,000
PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED	<p>Harsh working conditions in garment factories have been for years at the center of a large and growing debate about globalization and labor standards. Low wages, long hours, high temperatures, excessive noise, poor air quality, unsanitary conditions, and abuse (both verbal and physical) are often cited as evidence of non-compliance labor practices which characterize production in developing countries such as Vietnam. In 2009, Better Work Vietnam (BWV) was launched in the apparel industry in Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong and Dong Nai Provinces. The rapid growth of the apparel sector has coincided with increased numbers of labor disputes. The amended Labor Code and Trade Union Act law (adopted in 2012) were widely expected to and do provide for an increased union role in collective bargaining and dispute resolution democratic representation. However, workers lacked effective voice in factories and the unions lacked capacity to democratically represent workers at the factory level. Because the Better Work program requires active participation of workers and their organizations through Performance Improvement Consultative Committees (PICCs) to ensure that compliance plans are appropriately designed and implemented, USDOL funded the Union Capacity Development project.</p>
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	<p>To support decent work in the apparel sector by increasing the capacity unions to effectively represent workers in textile export workplaces.</p>
PROJECT STRATEGY	<p>Better Work is an innovative program that improves working conditions in global supply chains by combining labor monitoring and training to apparel factories around the world. The Better Work strategy focuses on</p>

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market incentives for both producers and buyers, as labor law compliance increases competitiveness and international firms are driven by the need to protect their reputation and image. By monitoring garment factories' compliance with international labor standards, Better Work informs major brands and buyers of labor conditions in the sector. Multinational apparel brands use that information to help determine where they place their orders. The capacity-building efforts directed at worker representatives in the factories are aimed at building skills and confidence in the social dialogue process at the factory level to support improvements in compliance with national labor law consistent with International Labor Standards. This effort supports the overall implementation of the Better Work model in Vietnam, with better representation of workers and peaceful resolution of labor disputes.

PROJECT IMPACT/RESULTS

DOL exclusively funds the union capacity building component of the Better work Vietnam project. The program has helped train workers to better identify and remediate violations. Through training of trainer's methodology, the project improved the overall union's ability of to effectively represent the workers.

GRANTEE

International Labor Organization (ILO)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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